1.   A method for extending the lifetime of a photoreceptor belt inside of a printing device, comprising detensioning the belt when the printing device enters an idle state.

2.   The method of **claim 1**, wherein the belt is detensioned manually.

3.   The method of **claim 1**, wherein the belt is detensioned automatically.

4.   The method of **claim 3**, further comprising determining that the printing device is in an idle state a fixed period of time after the last job has printed.

5.   The method of **claim 1**, wherein the belt is detensioned to a reduced tension that is greater than zero but less than the full operating tension.

6.   The method of **claim 5**, wherein the reduced tension is sufficient to prevent the surface of the belt from contacting other components inside the printing device.

7.   The method of **claim 1**, further comprising tensioning the belt to an operational tension when the printing device enters an operational state.

8.   A method for increasing the lifetime of an endless belt, comprising:
        automatically reducing the tension in the belt from an operating tension to an idle tension when it is not being used; and
        automatically increasing the tension in the belt from the idle tension to the operating tension when the belt is used.

9. The method of **claim 9**, wherein the idle tension is at least one tenth of the operational tension.

10. The method of **claim 9**, wherein the belt is a photoreceptor belt.

11. The method of **claim 9**, wherein the idle tension is zero.

12. A method for extending the lifetime of a photoreceptor belt in a printing device, comprising:

a fixed period of time after the last print job has finished, automatically decreasing the tension in the belt from an operating tension;

automatically increasing the tension in the belt back to the operating tension when a new print job is started.

13. The method of **claim 1**, wherein the belt is detensioned to a reduced tension that is greater than zero but less than the full operating tension.

14. A tension control apparatus for detensioning a endless belt, wherein the belt is wrapped around a support apparatus including at least one support for the belt, a tensioning member, and a biasing means acting on the tensioning member, the tension control apparatus comprising:

a frame connected to the support apparatus;

a cam connected to the frame;

a first lever arm having first and second ends,

wherein the first lever arm is pivotally connected to the frame at a pivot point between the first and second ends of the first lever arm,

wherein the first end of the first lever arm is positioned such that when the cam is rotated, the cam causes the first lever arm to pivot about the pivot point such that the second end of the first lever arm engages the biasing means such that the biasing means no longer acts on the tensioning member.

15. The tension control apparatus of **claim 14**, wherein the belt is a photoreceptor belt.

16. The tension control apparatus of **claim 14**, wherein the biasing means includes at least one spring-loaded mechanism.

17. The tension control apparatus of **claim 14**, further comprising a second lever arm having first and second ends,

wherein the second lever arm is pivotally connected to the frame at a pivot point between the first and second ends of the second lever arm,

wherein the first end of the second lever arm is positioned such that when the cam is rotated, the cam causes the second lever arm to pivot about the pivot point such that the second end of the second lever arm engages the biasing means such that the biasing means no longer acts on the tensioning member.

18.   The tension control apparatus of **claim 17**, wherein the biasing means includes first and second spring-loaded mechanisms,

wherein the second end of the first lever arm engages the first spring and the second end of the second lever arm engages the second spring-loaded mechanisms.